

VZCZCXRO1397
PP RUEHAG RUEHAST RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHDBU RUEHDF RUEHIK RUEHLH RUEHLN
RUEHLZ RUEHPW RUEHROV RUEHVK RUEHYG
DE RUEHAH #1213 3121144
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 081144Z NOV 07
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9677
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 2961
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 0781
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 0657
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY 1234
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE PRIORITY 1878
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0619
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 001213

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN, EEB
PLEASE PASS TO USTDA DAN STEIN
ENERGY FOR EKIMOFF/THOMPSON
COMMERCE FOR HUEPER

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ECON](#) [EPET](#) [TX](#)
SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN'S OIL AND GAS EXHIBITION LEAVES NO
ROOM AT THE INNS

11. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Not for public Internet.

12. (SBU) The administrative officer at Turkmenistan's Ministry of Oil and Gas (please protect) told an embassy employee that foreign interest in the November 13-15 Turkmenistan International Oil and Gas Exhibition (TIOGE) has far exceeded anyone's wildest expectations -- straining the ability of the Ministry of Oil and Gas and Ashgabat's tourist infrastructure to adequately support the event. According to this source, 3,000 have registered to attend the event, which will concurrently combine under one roof both a conference and an exhibition. An unknown number of other individuals seeking to register beyond the cutoff date have been turned away. The Ministry of Oil and Gas -- responsible for the logistical arrangements, including providing hotel space for participants -- did not expect so much interest. With only 513 Western-standard hotel rooms available in the city at any time, there simply are not enough rooms for everybody. The conference facilities, located on the third floor of Ashgabat's Conference and Exhibition Palace, will be similarly strained, and the Ministry of Oil and Gas official despaired of being able to seat more than a small percentage of participants for any one conference session.

13. (SBU) Adding to the confusion, responsibility for the conference and exhibition is being shared among three entities: the Ministry of Oil and Gas responsible for the exhibition site and for all logistics, the Ashgabat Chamber of Commerce responsible for compiling the catalog, and the conference organizer, ITE. The Ministry of Oil and Gas official stated that the upshot is a badly overburdened event.

14. (SBU) COMMENT: Turkmenistan's ministries and Ashgabat's infrastructure simply are not equipped to handle so many

people. Delays are inevitable everywhere, including at the airport, on Ashgabat's roads, in its hotels and restaurants, and at the conference site itself. Post urges anybody participating in TIOGE to come with flexibility as well as a sense of adventure and humor (and maybe a few granola bars). In comparison to last year, when organizers considered calling off the event off because of the low registration, TIOGE-2007 will clearly be the event of the year. END COMMENT.
HOAGLAND